

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:	§	Docket No. P11712.00 / 31849.35
Shores et al.	§	
	§	Customer No. 27683
Serial No.: 10/698,638	§	
	§	Group Art Unit: 3733
Filed: October 31, 2003	§	
	§	Examiner: Cumberledge, Jerry L.
For: COUPLING SYSTEM FOR	§	
SURGICAL INSTRUMENT	§	Confirmation No.: 3375

Mail Stop: AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

The present paper is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed March 2, 2007. No fees, including extension of time fees, are believed necessary for consideration of the present paper. However, if any fees are necessary, including extension of time fees, the extension of time is hereby requested, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, including those for the extension of time, to Haynes and Boone, LLP's Deposit Account No. 08-1394.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.